CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE
Digest

RAY LEWIS
EDITOR AND
PUBLISHER
FILM BLDG.
277 Victoria St.
TORONTO

THIRTY-FOURTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION 1915-49

Vol. 40, No. 40 TORONTO, CANADA January 29th, 1949

IT DOESN'T PAY TO LIVE

I AM going around in circles, and no wonder. I recently read of a man who has applied for a deed for the purchase of space, "here, there and everywhere," and who states that he will, having secured this deed, refuse in the course of fifty years to permit landing bases near the moon. He says his plan is "out of this world." What do you think?

I am listening to the sound of rain beating against the window-panes of my room. My Calendar tells me that this is the month of January, but the air today, has been warm and the rain is like an April rain. The place is Toronto, in Canada, which Kipling named "The Lady Of The Snows".

In addition to this eccentric and unseasonable behavior of Mother Nature, Dr. Albert Einstein has said, " a sunbeam, setting out through space at the rate of 186,000 miles a second, would describe a great cosmic circle and return to its source after a little more than 200 billion terrestrial years."

Two Billion Years Old

If the Universe is not more than two billion years old — these figures are not mine, but given by men with whom I would not wish to argue, by men unrelated to our Industry, for we only talk in measly millions — the first sunbeam has not yet had time to cover more than one percent of its cosmic journey. Don't look at me, again the information about the sunbeam is from men reputed to know.

Why are we then so much concerned with our less than a speck on the calendar of time, our three score and ten apportioned years.

It doesn't pay to live. And yet, when we consider all the millions which we read about as lost, and the millions made in our motion picture industry, and compare these millions with the long journey home for the sunbeam, we can make the most of that three score and ten, we can enjoy being alive, and argue that it does pay to live.

I Wish So Many Things

I wish that our Moving Picture Industry would stop telling us of the millions of dollars which they have lost; and I wish that the U.S. Treasury Dept. would stop telling us of the salaries and bonuses adding up to millions, despite the reported motion picture losses.

I wish the producers would tell us that they intend, notwithstanding Television, to keep on producing pictures to keep the exhibitors in business.

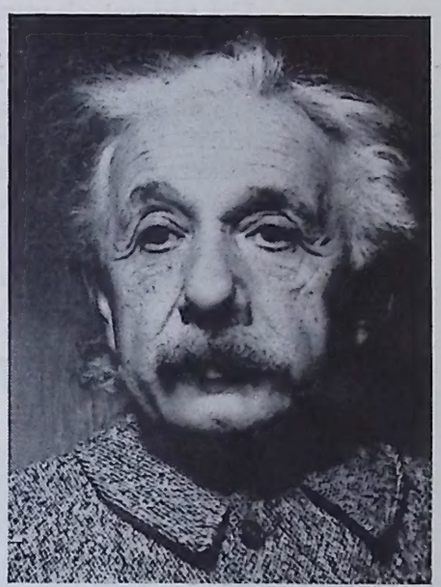
I wish that whoever is responsible for the conflicting stories published concerning the plans of David O. Selznick would make up his mind, for at the present time all of us in the Film Trade, and the public are getting such a run-around, that for sheer relief, all we can say is, David, Oye Selznick come to our rescue.

I wish that the U.S. Government would make up its mind and stop doing a Hamlet soliloquy, "To Be Or Not To Be Divorcement?" I wish that Distribution and Exhibition could be cured of its Arteriosclerosis, that hardening of the arteries which dams up the flow of product.

Supreme Industry Council

In addition to the Association of Producers and Distributors, there should be a Supreme Council, Producers-Distributors-Exhibitors, to which the united producers - distributors could appeal on questions which affect the peace of the entire industry; and that this Supreme Council should have the power to apply sanctions, force, if necessary, to keep the flow of product moving from producer to consumer.

I wish that the British and American Industries would get together. If, as the press reports, Bevin can have a change of vision in respect to the establishment of peace in Palestine, and England cease to, in Churchillian language, "act like a sulky schoolboy" in relation to Israel, it should be possible for peace to be established between the British and American Film Industries. It is possible, if only each of these Industries would be willing to give the other a piece of film trade. With peace established between the British and American Film Industries, the other nations will follow their example, and once again Depression will be caught with its pants down and will run for cover.



ALBERT EINSTEIN

The eminent mathematician and physicist recently appeared in a short subject on Atomic Energy.

Youthful Prejudices

Einstein has said, referring to common sense, that it is "nothing more than a deposit of prejudices laid down in the mind prior to the age of eighteen." Why not clear our minds of all such deposits? They may well be the cause of the arteriosclerosis which prevents the flow of economic goodwill, the sustenance which establishes economic equilibrium and free trade.

(*Continued on Page* 2)

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It Doesn't Pay To Live

(*Continued from Page* 1)

The idea of getting the highest price or percentage and of buying at the lowest price or percentage are common sense film trade practices, but may these not be "a deposit of prejudices laid down in the mind" at the age when this Industry was an Infant? No one has yet proved that Einstein is not right.

The automobile replaced the horse and buggy, and then came travelling by air, but ships still cross the ocean and trains still run. The radio replaced the phonograph, but radio and the public still use records, and never has the sale of records been as great as it is today.

Time Unlimited

If the Universe is rebuilding itself, and if the time will never come "when time itself will be at an end", with all this time available can we not rebuild our own Industry to meet the spirit of the movement of time?

Pioneers built a world-wide motion picture industry. This Industry has not grown too big for these Pioneers, nor have the younger men grown too big for the Pioneers. Where is the clean, reasoning mind which knows how to preserve our resources, how to direct our present, and how to preserve our future? Even with Television, which is, after all, Motion Pictures, believe me, it does pay to live, for despite the fact that, at the present time, there are thousands of homes equipped for the showing of 16 mm. films and libraries of films from which motion pictures for such projection can be obtained, millions of people go to the Movies.

—THE EDITOR

Canadian Danseuse In "The Red Shoes"

Gladys Forrester, Winnipeg-born danseuse, will be making personal appearances at the Odeon-Toronto Theatre in connection with the opening of the Technicolor film "The Red Shoes". Miss Forrester danced with the corps de ballet in this film and on her return to Canada joined the Volkoff Ballet in Toronto.

Ted Gould To L.A. To See MGM Product

Ted Gould, sales manager for M-G-M Pictures of Canada, Ltd., will attend the company's "Preview of Product" in Los Angeles February 6 to 12, it was announced recently. Gould, who makes his headquarters at Toronto, will go to New York and leave with the eastern contingent on February 3. It will mark the first time he has attended such a gathering in California. Due to pressure of business, Henry L. Nathanson, president of the Canadian subsidiary, will be unable to go to the coast.

RAY PRESENTS

DESPITE the wait and see attitude of the Canadian Broadcasting Corp., in relation to Television, for which no Licenses have yet been granted to the various companies, including Famous Players Canadian Corp., which appeared before the Board to apply for Television permits, several manufacturers in Canada are making Television sets for public sale.

At the present time it is possible to receive from Buffalo, New York, Chicago and several other border cities, televised broadcasts, and I am just wondering what is going to happen when televised motion pictures come through. Let us suppose that a televised motion picture can be seen in thousands of homes in Canada, the television rights for it having been sold in the United States by the producer, or the distributor who owned them; but in Canada, a distributor has 35 mm. rights and has not yet distributed this picture. Will not such prior distribution of the picture, seen in thousands of homes, coming from U.S. stations, depreciate its value and be in competition with the distributor who has the Canadian rights?

Let us follow this situation still further, and deal with the Canadian distributor who has not only the 35 mm. rights, but has a clause in his contract that neither 16 mm. nor television rights shall be sold for Canada during the period of the distributor's contract. When the picture comes to Canada from U.S. television stations, the producer has not sold the 16 mm. or television rights in Canada, he has sold rights to the U.S., but the Televised picture can be seen in Canada. Another example — the distributor in Canada has, in addition to 35 mm. rights, 16 mm. and Television. He is making a deal with a station in Canada for the televising of pictures for which he has the Canadian rights, but is advised the pictures are already available to the public in Canada, who receive these motion pictures televised from the U.S. How is such television going to be controlled unless limited rights on televised motion pictures are sold, and such rights confined to specific territories? If television broadcasts of motion pictures are not restricted, I can see litigation in respect to rights on the doorsteps of all parties concerned.

WHAT about motion pictures which Censor Boards have banned, or from which deletions have been made in Canada? Would a televised motion picture which can be seen in an auditorium, in a restaurant, or in a private home be considered public exhibition?

I recently read in our press that the progress of Canadian television is dependent on the securing of a loan from the Canadian Government which would be repaid out of license fees and advertising. The loan must be approved by Parliament, but if provisions for such a loan were made in the 1949-50 budget, the CBC might construe such provision as a promising sign.

At its last meeting in October of 1948, the CBC Board of Governors deferred action on six applications for television stations in Montreal and Toronto. Four of the applications were made by CFCF and CKAC in Montreal and CFRB and CKEY in Toronto. Famous Players Canadian Corp. made application and Al. Leary, a former radio commentator, applied also.

The Board stated that it deferred action on the applications for permits or licenses to study the possibilities of a co-operative plan in which broadcasters and manufacturers would be consulted on the possibility of joining the CBC in initial television projects.

THE Chairman of the Board stated that this might delay action for three or four months. There have been some reports on the progress made toward the co-operative plan, but these have been unofficial, and center around the question of how much the CBC is willing and able to contribute financially. The plan involves the expenditure of several millions of dollars. There has also been some talk about license fees to owners of television sets at $10.00 per year, this in addition to the $2.50 annual fee for radio licenses now in force. Repayment of the Government loan could be made through revenue from these fees and that derived from advertising.

Meanwhile, in the United States, television is reported to be attracting large crowds to whereever a television set is functioning; and those who have their television sets in the home are staying home for an evening's enjoyment.

What Television means to the Motion Picture Industry is still uncertain in respect to Exhibition, it is not uncertain in connection with production, for producing for Television will present few problems to producers. It may tell quite a different story in respect to Distribution; and a very different story for theatres and exhibitors.

MOTION PICTURES have always had some form of competition, including weather conditions. If the weather is pleasant, there are the out-door sports which keep patrons away from motion picture theatres; and in our large cities, attractions of importance are keen motion picture competition. In small towns, local events lessen theatre attendance. Thousands of motion picture patrons prefer to go to a Movie rather than stay at home and sit around when the weather is bad; but if they can see a motion picture at home on television, would they suffer the inconvenience of bad weather?

The industry of Motion Pictures met the competition of the great out-doors and the motoring desire by the introduction of Drive-In Theatres. Radio has its big nights on which it gives theatres competition, but its greatest appeal was during the War Years when a world of people listened in to War News. Sports events and Election returns keep possible picture patrons at home to listen to the radio, despite the fact that election returns are given in many theatres. But if you can look as well as listen, in your own home, with no "sitter" problems; if you can solve some of your entertainment problems for your guests by tuning in for an evening's entertainment, taking care of guests who have not much conversational talent, or who do not care to play cards, theatres may find a decline in business.

WE have not, as yet, television in Canada, and the signs are a decline in motion picture attendance which cannot be attributed to television competition. I have tried to imagine what people did for entertainment when we had no Motion Pictures. I know that at one time in our history we had no cars; but since that era the world has changed and the masses, who previously did not have horse-drawn carriages, now do have cars. Cars have become a necessity for millions of people. Motion pictures became a necessity for millions of people. When I was in my teens and stage shows were travelling in Canada, with repertoire companies presenting a change of show weekly, and vaudeville being presented on circuits across the dominion, classified as non-theatrical, the public gave its patronage to such exhibitions.

(*Continued on Page 6*)

Toronto and District

By BILL PRESS

A MOVE to bar any films starring Rita Hayworth and Robert Mitchum was launched by Ald. Lawrence Deziel at a meeting of the Windsor, Ont., City Council because he considered their presence on the screen unsavory in view of recent personal developments.

Ald. Deziel asked for the invoking of an Ontario statute which would prevent the showing of pictures having "certain infamous people" because of their unsuitability for family audiences. The alderman named Hayworth and Mitchum.

The Ontario Board of Moving Picture Censors has not made any decision in the matter and is not expected to act because the pictures which would be affected have been approved for general showing.

* * *

At the period of the Windsor alderman's recommendation, Hayworth pictures were playing a number of Toronto and other theatres. "Blood and Sand" was on the screens of the Midtown, Circle, Esquire and Parkdale Odeon and "The Loves of Carmen" was at the Brock, Kenwood and Lake Theatres while "The Lady from Shanghai" was at the Odeon in Peterboro.

The Colony in Toronto was showing "Out of the Past" and the North Toronto Capitol had "Rachel and the Stranger" in both of which Mitchum is a star.

* * *

Speaking of Windsor, the City Council there has rejected the proposal that daylight be extended two months this year to save electric power. A by-law was adopted for summer time from April 24 to Sept. 25, which is the customary period.

* * *

M. J. Pongres has acquired the Regent Theatre at New Hamburg, Ont. The Regent is listed as having 190 seats and is the only theatre in the village . . . William R. Baxter is constructing a theatre in Tecumseh, Ont., which is to be called the Rex.

The Selznick Story

Yes, they've gone and done it. SRO has given notice to the staffs of all the branches across the country. Formerly, the idea was that just the salesmen would go. Staying on are Joe Marks, Mervyn Goldstone and possibly a secretary or so.

As a result of the American pact with Eagle-Lion (Hollywood) distribution of a number of Selznick reissues, and tail-end booking on "Duel in the Sun" and "The Paradine Case" will be handled by International Film Distributors.

Who will handle the forthcoming new product seems to be anybody's guess.

The 1949 enrolment in the Famous Players' 25 Year Club consists of 21 members, to make the total membership 152 men and women for its fifth year. Employees who have qualified through a quarter of a century of service range from head-office people and a district manager to two doormen and a caretaker.

The list of 1949 candidates also includes four theatre managers, an assistant manager and six projectionists.

The district manager is Bob Roddick of Halifax, whose territory is the Maritime Provinces. The caretaker is Albert H. Dodds of the Capitol Theatre, Victoria, B.C.

* * *

Effective last Monday, Harvey Kathron, formerly with SRO and before that with 20th Century-Fox, is a Sales Representative for Eagle-Lion Films working out of Toronto, it was announced by Mr. Frank Fisher, General Manager of the Canadian company.

* * *

Irving Herman, Publicity Rep. for International Film Distributors, was in the building last week passing out cigars. It's a boy and mother, formerly Dorothy Grossman of the Monogram office staff, and child are doing nicely, thank you.

* * *

Robert Tindall has left the position of doorman of the Capitol and has gone to the Odeon in Fort William. His place at the Capitol is being taken by Jack McDonald. Harlene Wilson takes the place of Terry Mason, usherette at the Capitol. Agnes Miclach has taken the place of Teresa Vangilin as usherette, Teresa having gone to the Colonial as cashier.

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The Canadian Moving Picture Digest
Entered as Second Class Matter
RAY LEWIS
Editor-In-Chief
PAUL FIRESTONE
Assistant to the Editor
Address all mail to the Publisher
CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST COMPANY, LIMITED
277 Victoria Street - Toronto
Telephone: WAverley 4929
Cable: Raydigest
Established 1915. Publication weekly.
Subscription: $5.00 yearly
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BRUCE PEACOCK.....Regina, Sask.
JACK DROY.....Vancouver, B.C.
WILL McLAUGHLIN.....Ottawa, Ont.
BILL PRESS.....Toronto, Ont.

Manager James Hardiman of the Odeon Theatre at London, Ont., has organized a movie club for Saturday morning programs . . . During the engagement of "A Song Is Born" at the London, Ont., Capitol, Manager Bill Trudell had Charlie Barnet, a featured musician in the picture for a personal appearance one night at the theatre.

* * *

The Ontario Censor Board has added four more pictures to the Adult Entertainment classification, these being "He Walked by Night", "My Sister and I", "The Strange Mrs. Crane" and "Behind Locked Doors".

* * *

After playing to overflow crowds at the Elmdale Theatre, Ottawa, for five days, "Mom and Dad", the sex-hygiene picture, had a next engagement scheduled at the Biltmore Theatre in downtown Toronto where Manager Al Perly presides.

* * *

"Shoe Shine" had an outstanding run at the Odeon Savoy Theatre, Hamilton, where Manager Sam Hebscher has also been featuring "The only vaudeville show in Hamilton" one night each week.

Lakehead Exhibitors Elect Fred Tickell President

At a meeting held in the Royal Edward Hotel, Fort William, by the Lakehead Motion Pictures Exhibitors Association on January 18th, the new slate of officers for the coming year was brought in. They were as follows: President, Fred Tickell; Vice-President, Len McGuire; Secretary, Nestor Novak.

Several items were discussed, among them the question of bingo, as this is really opposition to the theatres. Bingo here seems to be going as strong as ever even though there was a ban placed on this form of amusement some time ago.

The next meeting of the association will be held the end of January and will include installation of the new officers.

« Prairie News »

By BRUCE PEACOCK

YORKTON, SASK., city council amended the amusement tax by-law, effective Jan. 1, to impose a 10 percent tax on many amusements.

The amendment calls for no tax on admissions of 25 cents or under, but a charge of 10 percent on admissions over 25 cents. Skating charges will not be taxed, but hockey games and other rink amusements will be. There will be no tax on amateur entertainment in schools or where whole proceeds of a function are for religious, charitable or educational purposes.

* * *

New manager of the Broadway theatre, Saskatoon, is R. G. Smyth, who has been connected with Odeon Theatres in Winnipeg since August, 1946, and with Famous Players for several years before that.

* * *

At Moosomin, Sask., the board of trade sponsored a free show for children of the town and district at the Lyric, Dec. 18. On the same day, free screenings for children were presented in the Lux, Hudson Bay, with local merchants providing treats. Melville and district children were entertained by the board of trade in that town with free shows in the Roxy, Dec. 20 and 21, at which treats were provided by merchants.

* * *

Named mayor of Davidson, Sask., by a one vote majority over his opponent was J. A. Vopni, who owns the theatre at Davidson, publishes the newspaper there and is linked with several other business enterprises.

TRADE HEADLINES

David A. Lipton Replaces John Joseph As National Ad-Pub Chief For Universal-International

●

RKO St. John Branch Leads Canada In Ned Depinet Drive — Calgary Second

●

Aileen Brenon and Nick Mamula Leave Selznick Publicity Posts

●

Warner's "Calgary Stampede" Selected Best Short Of 1948 In New Liberty Poll

●

Sid Skolsky Packaging "Eddie Cantor Story" Deal On It With Warners Off — Too Expensive

●

MGM Saved $2,732,841 On Personnel In 1948 By Letting Out 76 Upper Bracket Employes

●

Company Presidents Meet In Miami To Discuss TV, Morals, Foreign Situation, Economy, Anti-Trust

●

Goldwyn Quits MPAA—AMPP To Concentrate on SIMPP Gets Into Word Battle With Eric Johnston

●

British Pictures Grossing Over $100,000 Weekly In U.S. Largely Due to "Hamlet" and "Red Shoes"

●

Eagle-Lion Back In Production Feb. 16th With Two

●

Crosby Definite To Go CBS Next Fall

●

UA Finance Set For More Than Twenty Pictures To Be Produced In 1949

●

Loew's Reports 1947-48 Profit of $5,309,659 Half Previous Year Despite Higher Revenues

●

Screen Guild Votes $100,000 Increase In Capitalization "To Do a Good Job" On Forthcoming Product

●

Lawson Denies "Quota Talk" Backed by Rank

●

UA Plans Complete Reorganization To Include Financing of Independents

RAY PRESENTS

(*Continued from Page 3*)

When Motion Pictures and Radio were introduced the public became less eager to express itself. The day of the elocutionist, the local singer, etc., almost disappeared; but the teens' generation today is stagestruck, it has a desire to act, to produce, it is very critical of motion pictures, it takes all the comforts and conveniences of a motion picture theatre for granted. It has never developed a stay-home habit, it has a restlessness which desires to express itself in "going places". But curiously enough when these teen-agers get married, they are interested in establishing a home and having children. They are more keen on being the parents of large families than were their own mothers and fathers.

ALTHOUGH, in my opinion, some of their ideas are cock-eyed, they are frank, they are not hypocritical, but they *are* super-critical; and in respect to Motion Pictures they are not "glamourized" despite the fact that when a favorite star, male or female, arrives, they will be on hand to take a look.

Perhaps, with the development of million dollar productions, we talked too much of millions and forgot the Barnum touch. While most people like to be considered realists, to get down as we say "to fundamentals", have you not found that the most sensible people can be the most terrible bores? Have you not found that you can enjoy yourself in the company of people who are not what you call Realists? Do not these people make a most pleasant interlude in the everyday business of living?

No Entertainment will remain enjoyable which fails to excite you, to carry you out of yourself. The reason that Radio leaves so many of us "just blah" is the fact that you are always reminded, at least in Canada, that you have a sour stomach, a ringing in the ears, that your cough may be T.B., etc., etc. The glamour and thrill of such Entertainment is gone because you are brought back to yourself and your pain in the head, or your behind, or some other part of your anatomy.

When we are looking at a motion picture, why should we know that the star, a young debutante, has just had a baby, or another husband, or how much she earns a week or how much the picture cost to make. These realities are not glamourous and Motion Pictures became the most popular entertainment in the world because of its glamour.

IN the Kinematograph Weekly, Dec. 16th, 1948, there is a feature story by P. G. Baker which sums up the year's work and reports a total output of 63 first features, which, it states, is only four more than in 1947.

"Producers wanted a high quota, it is up to them to deliver the goods," says Mr. Baker. "British producers have failed to deliver the goods. I don't enjoy making this statement but it is a fact, and this survey is concerned with facts.

"During the 12 months ending Dec. 31st, our studios will have wholly completed 63 first feature pictures compared with 59 in 1947. In addition there will be three first features made overseas or wholly on location, 18 second feature films made in studios and about 30 'featurettes' made on location and now in the cutting room.

"It was in June that Harold Wilson, President of the Board of Trade, announced the 45% exhibitor quota of British first feature films. But instead of a steady increase from that date in the overall tempo, studio after studio went out of action, staffs were dismissed and, even as I write 12 studios are idle — and have been for several weeks."

MR. BAKER continues, "It is foolish to accuse producers of not wanting to make pictures, of course they want to make films, but film-making in Britain is gradually becoming less and less an economic possibility.

"Unless British production finds its right economic level immediately, in a very short while there won't be any British film-making.

"Let us sum up the year's work. The J. Arthur Rank organization, in association with Ealing Studios, has completed 34 first features of the year's total, plus two location-only first features, and four second features from Highbury.

"Sir Alexander Korda's Studios including British National, which was leased in June, will have made eight first features this year.

"The Associated British set-up has completed three pictures, in addition to films handled by Pathé from independent producers.

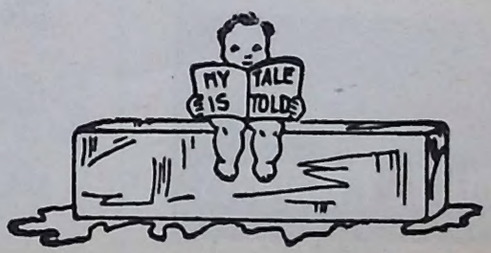
"Last year, Rank was responsible for twenty-nine features, Korda for seven, and A.B.P.C. for three. During 1948 there have been 18 first features made by independent producing companies, including the five made directly by U.S. companies."

MR. BAKER, in his survey, states that in 1937, under a British Film Quota of 20%, using eight fewer sound stages and nearly 100,000 square feet less stage space, producers made 179 features in British studios. The largest percentage of pictures made in 1937 were Quota Quickies, but over 130 of the British Pictures produced in 1937 came from twelve of the more important studios. Mr. Baker is of the opinion that in 1937 the productions of merit are comparable with those in 1948.

This may be the viewpoint in England, but with this viewpoint I do not agree, for the last few years have given us some remarkable British Films, real contributions to the screen; and for such productions we are indebted to the J. Arthur Rank organizations.

It would not surprise me if, in 1949, the British Film Quota were to be reduced, this time at the request of the British Film Industry; and that certain restrictive regulations which have so greatly strained the film relations between Great Britain and the United States will be very much modified.

IF the Cleveland, Ohio, Steel Interests make up their respective minds as to what is going to be good for the United States and for Canada, such good which must reach out to benefit other nations, we may see the St. Lawrence Seaway Plan go through; and then watch Canada, with its unlimited natural resources grow bigger and better economically, broaden its immigration policy and — here I stop, lest you mistake me for a prophet.



Maritime News

By A. L. FAIRWEATHER

A PROMINENT member of the Motion Picture Industry in the Maritimes was the recipient of a great honor recently when James A. Whitebone was decorated as a member of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. Mr. Whitebone, projectionist at the Capitol Theatre, Saint John for many years, and now at the Paramount Theatre, was invested at a ceremony held at Government House with the Lieutenant-Governor, The Hon. D. L. MacLaren officiating. Several intimate friends attended the ceremony at which W. C. McEachern, Moncton, regional director of Postal Services, was also decorated. "Jimmie" Whitebone's award is "for Meritorious Service to the Labor Movement." He has been president of the New Brunswick Federation of Labor for 15 years, is vice-president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada and of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employes and Moving Picture Machine Operators of Canada and the United States. Mr. Whitebone is a veteran of the First Great War and a splendid citizen of Saint John. He was a member of the City Council and is highly thought of in his home city.

* * *

Omar Henry of the Kum-C Theatre, Dieppe and Lloyd Mason of the Capitol, Springhill, N.S. as well as Mr. and Mrs. V. McLaughlin of the Opera House, Newcastle, N.B. were Saint John visitors recently.

* * *

The decision regarding smoking in the Paramount Theatre, Saint John now rests with the presiding Judge Barry who will give his decision following consideration of the affidavits in the case. The last hearing took place January 20th, and the matter now rests until a verdict is given. This case is being watched with much interest through the Province as there are other buildings where smoking is not permitted at present although the buildings are fire-proof as far as possible.

* * *

"The Paleface" (Paramount) is being held over practically wherever shown and was most successful at the Capitol in Halifax, N.S.

* * *

An interesting function was held at the Nova Scotian Hotel, Halifax, when "Bob" Roddick, Eastern Supervisor for Famous Players, was made a member of Famous Players Twenty-five Year Club at a banquet at which many friends were present. Mr. Roddick has been in Halifax for ten years but has spent 25 years with Famous Players. He is now fully accepted as a "Maritimer" and is very popular both in Halifax and in the other Cities where his duties as supervisor take him. His headquarters are at the Capitol Theatre, Halifax.

* * *

Lew Simon, manager at Saint John for Columbia Pictures, has returned from St. John's Newfoundland and reports business fairly good there. Maurice Elman of Alliance Films has left for Newfoundland. Newfoundlanders are holding opinions on Confederation with Canada, the distributors state, maintaining a "Wait and See" attitude.

En route to the opening of the new Famous Players Paramount Theatre at Halifax, N.S., was Morris Stein, Toronto, who spent a short while in Saint John. The new theatre is on Barrington Street, on the site of the old Orpheus Theatre, and is the latest word, with all the modern improvements. The opening feature was "Miss Tatlock's Millions" (Paramount). On Thursday evening a gala opening was held, the entire proceeds of which will be donated to the Halifax Children's Hospital Fund. The regular shows started on Friday. The opening price was one dollar. Attending from Saint John was Gordon Spencer of the F. G. Spencer Co. Ltd.

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see The Italian Masterpiece
Shoe Shine
(SCIUSCIA)
COMING to the SAVOY for 3 DAYS
Starting TUES. JAN. 18
2 IN 1 SHOE POLISH
YOUR SHOES ARE SHOWING!
for a GOOD SHINE ALL the TIME use
2 IN 1 SHOE POLISH
YOUR SHOES ARE SHOWING!

Savoy, Hamilton, Promotes "Shoe Shine" With Shoe Polish Tie-Up

Display in the lobby of the theatre plugs the polish as well as the picture, but in return the 2 in 1 company distributed 5,000 free samples of their shoe polish, bearing printed collars with the theatre's name and playdate information in downtown Hamilton, and fifty window cards, all of which helped run up a very nice gross for the theatre, of which Sam Hebscher is the enterprising manager.

The Vogue Theatre in Vancouver held a preview showing recently of the Eagle-Lion film, "The Red Shoes", with proceeds going to the "March of Dimes" for children's hospitals. All seats were $2.00 and picture showed to a capacity house. Seen on the night are left to right: Roy McLeod, Vogue Manager; Howard Boothe, Odeon's B.C. head; Earl Hayter, Odeon supervisor, in the rear; and on the far right Derek Inman, JARO Representative, and Marge Brewer, Vogue Assistant Manager. All the girls wore red shoes and corsages for the occasion.

Vancouver News

By JACK DROY

COMPULSORY power rationing in Vancouver and the Lower Mainland went into effect last week. The rationing affects industry, business and homes. Commercial customers are ordered to turn off all illuminated signs, outside light and show-window lighting, also to reduce lighting by at least 50 percent. Residential customers must keep off all portable electric heaters, porch lights and other outside lights. The regulations cover all the Lower Mainland including the Fraser Valley. Meantime, since there is no hope of any improvement in the weather conditions which have brought about the power shortage, the above restrictions are vital to guard against a more serious situation, to keep industries and payrolls going, said a B.C.E.R. official.

* * *

Show business as usual is giving the scheme excellent co-operation. Vancouver took its dim-out more seriously this week; the city had an uneasy air, especially in sections like the Granville Street theatre oasis, and the "brown-out" turned the years back for newcomers from Europe and veterans with memories of war-dimmed cities. Theatre marquees and electric signs along theatre row have all been doused. To date it has not affected theatre grosses materially here, although they have dropped in some smaller situations in the B.C. territory as a result of the record-breaking cold, and the heavy snows which are tying up transportation in the interior of the province and keeping farm folk away from the theatres.

* * *

Famous mimic from the New Zealand "Kiwi" concert party, "Red" Moore passed through Vancouver on his way to join the Marx Brothers in Hollywood. He arrived here on the Aorangi from Australia, and after a day in Vancouver left for the movie city.

* * *

Gordon Monroe, publicity head in B.C. for Odeon Theatres, is the proud father of a second daughter, born in Grace Hospital this week. Gordie was busy passing out cigars . . . Jack Waite of the Orpheum is on the sick list. Bob Faulkner of the Lux, who is in hospital and underwent a major operation, suffered a relapse but is coming along satisfactorily at last reports.

* * *

Jerry Sutherland, manager of the Odeon-Park Theatre, is away on a six-weeks' trip covering prairie key towns with "Hamlet". Bill Wallace is pinch-hitting for Jerry at the Park Theatre.

Father Corcoran of St. Edmund's Roman Catholic Church, Vancouver, rapped the movies for encouraging juvenile delinquency and told the Parent - Teacher - sponsored gathering, "Salacious entertainment available without restriction in cinemas is more harmful to your youth than if they were permitted in beer parlours." The priest endorsed the Canada-wide campaign to ban crime "funnies," but declared it did not go far enough, in his address before the P-T-Ass'n.

* * *

Famous Players said there is no truth in the story that they plan to build a second theatre in the Fraser Valley town of Port Coquitlam as announced in the trade press (not DIGEST) recently. A new independent theatre opened in the town a month ago. Port Coquitlam is only a small spot, 11 miles from Westminster.

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Famous Players, who recently acquired the Edison Theatre at New Westminster will operate the house under a first-run policy, the chain having a back-log of pictures awaiting release in the Fraser Valley town which their Columbia theatre could not absorb.

* * *

Dave Griesdorf, Canadian head of International Distributors, is a local visitor busy checking his B.C. branch and visiting circuit heads. Dave also looked over the new downtown Studio Theatre which he expects to open shortly and will operate under a first run policy. Theatre is across the street from the Vogue.

* * *

Al Jenkins, Odeon-Plaza manager, is away to California and other points south of the border on a delayed vacation. John Cooshek, assistant-manager, is pinch-hitting at the Plaza. Ted Joy, who has been in operating booths in Canada since 1910, and now in his 80th year, has retired from the business. He has been in the Plaza booth for the past 11 years, formerly operating his own theatres down in Ontario.

"Son of Robin Hood" Next For Donald O'Connor

"Son of Robin Hood," has been set by William Goetz, Universal-International production chief, as a starring vehicle for Donald O'Connor and Charles Coburn.

The picture to be produced by Leonard Goldstein, will be a high budget Technicolor musical. It will follow "Curtain Call at Cactus Creek", on O'Connor's schedule.

Winnipeg News

By J. J. CONKLIN

A NUMBER of managerial changes are announced in the Western Theatres Ltd. staff, by J. Miles, the President. These include such well known names as B. Freedman, who has replaced Lou Miles at the Palace, Mr. Miles having joined the Winnipeg office of Cardinal Films; W. Russell, of the Roxy, has been appointed manager of the Starland, where he succeeds Mark Kramer. Don Drawson has been named manager of the Roxy. Fred Woodhall, formerly assistant manager of the Rio, has been appointed manager of the Plaza to succeed Mr. Drawson.

* * *

Hon. T. L. Morton has been named by the Manitoba Government as chief censor of all moving picture films reviewed in the Province. This post has been vacant since the departure of Cecil Rice-Jones, over a year ago. Mr. Rice-Jones is operating a farm in the Calgary, Alta. district.

* * *

The theatres in Winnipeg were well patronized when they put on two midnight shows, one on Christmas morning, and one on New Year's morning, but they have been running into very cold weather the last ten days, and business has fallen away. The Capitol Theatre ran Bob Hope in the "Pale Face" for three weeks this month, the first time this length of presentation has been recorded at this theatre in the past five years. The Capitol has a seating capacity of over four thousand patrons a day. The British picture "Oliver Twist" had a remarkable run of three weeks at the Odeon. The Garrick Theatre also had a three-week run of "Red River."

* * *

Mr. R. J. Cohan has been elected president of the Winnipeg Cine Club for 1949. Other officers are: I. Lambert, vice-president; W. R. Lawson, secretary-treasurer; W. C. Hall, D. L. McArthur, J. Shipper, B. F. Thompson, and A. Peterson.

* * *

Mayor W. E. Gordon of Selkirk, Manitoba, officially opened the new Garry Theatre recently at a Rotary club and Selkirk Youth Council theatre night.

Guest speakers were L. G. Howard, president of the Chamber of Commerce; N. Rothstein, proprietor and Dave Rothstein, his son. Don Stewart, manager of the theatre, was introduced.

The Selkirk Male Voice choir, directed by E. Dennison, sang, Mrs. A. Glendinning was accompanist, Frank Newman of Rotary club, was chairman. Proceeds were donated to Selkirk Youth Council.

Win $5

for a Title to this Cartoon!

The funniest gag lines accepted earn five bucks for the senders. Gag the situation — not the film title which changes on each appearance of the cartoon. Help put a smile on the face of our sad old world by sending as many entries as you like to:

FRANK FISHER
Eagle-Lion Films of Canada Limited
Odeon Toronto Theatre
18 CARLTON STREET - TORONTO

EAGLE-LION

IT'S A PROBLEM!

TIME TO GET STARTED ON THOSE BIGGER AND BETTER

SHOWMANSHIP CAMPAIGNS

FOR ENTRY IN

THE CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST

1949 SHOWMANSHIP CONTEST

« Capital Story »

By WILL McLAUGHLIN

OTTAWA and district theatre managers and their guests are still talking about the "wonderful time" they had at the party arranged by a committee of their fraternity organization last week. The "progressive" idea, during which the happy gathering proceeded from the Centre theatre by chartered autobus following cocktails with Gord. Beavis as host, to the Glebe, Elgin and Nelson in that order, was voted, by all who attended, something different in show folk social affairs.

* * *

Ray Tubman, Famous Players district chief and resident manager of the Capitol Theatre, returned recently from a trip to Toronto on company business. Ray, who takes his annual vacation during the Winter season, is completing plans to motor to Miami, Florida, for a sojourn of several weeks. He expects to leave here by motor car early next month, and will be accompanied south by Mrs. Tubman.

* * *

George Degnon, energetic public relations man for RKO-Radio in Eastern Canada, was in town for two days last week in connection with the opening of "The Velvet Touch" at the Regent Theatre. George made his business headquarters in manager Henry Marshall's office during his brief visit, but, as is customary with the fast-stepping RKO-Radio ambassador of goodwill, he called on most of the Uptown managers before entraining for Montreal. George let it be known that 1948 was the biggest year in the history of his company in Canada, with the major portion of the business being divided between Ontario and Quebec through Toronto and Montreal branches.

* * *

"Life with Father" just closed a week's showing at the big Capitol Theatre to good business at popular prices. This is something for the book, being the first time in the Capitol's history for a subsequent-run booking. The Capitol is following up its temporary policy of former "road show" productions at regular theatre prices with "Forever Amber." Both these pictures originally played at the smaller Regent Theatre on an upped admission scale.

* * *

Hold-overs at the moment are "The Return of October", which manager Ernie Warren is playing at his Little Elgin Theatre, and "The Pirate", the MGM Technicolor musical at the Regent. Manager Henry Marshall found the latter booking so much to the liking of his patrons that he gave it an extra three days over the original week's run.

For the first time in Ottawa, a feature religious picture was shown within the portals of a church. Entitled "Reaching For Heaven", the film was produced by the Missouri Synod of the Lutheran Church, with such well-known Hollywood players as Cheryl Walker, John Qualen, Hugh Beaumont, Regis Toomey, Addison Richards and Nana Bryant in the leading roles.

"Un Homme et Son Peche" (A Man and His Sin), based on the French Canadian radio character and produced in and around Ste. Adele by Montreal's Paul L'Anglais, will have its Canadian premiere in Hull, Que., just across the river from Ottawa, on Saturday, of this week. The cast of this latest Canadian-made feature production has Hector Charland in the star role of Seraphin Poudrier, miser of the Laurentian Hills, supported by a cast recruited from theatre and radio groups in Montreal.

Trans-Canada Showing

Use This Information As Your Guide On Release Dates

TORONTO

BILTMORE
"Mom and Dad" (Hygienic), with Commentary by Elliot Forbes.

DOWNTOWN
"The Untamed Breed" (Col.), Cinecolor, with Barbara Britton and Sonny Tufts. Also "Blondie's Secret" (Col.), with Penny Singleton and Arthur Lake.

EGLINTON-TIVOLI
3rd week. "The Snake Pit" (20th-Fox), with Olivia de Havilland and Mark Stevens.

HYLAND
"Hamlet" (EL), with Laurence Olivier and Jean Simmons.

IMPERIAL
5th week. "The Paleface" (Par.), Technicolor, with Bob Hope and Jane Russell.

LOEW'S
5th week. "The Three Musketeers" (MGM), Technicolor, with Lana Turner and Gene Kelly.

ODEON TORONTO
"The Red Shoes" (EL), Technicolor, with Anton Walbrook, Marius Goring and Moira Shearer.

SHEA'S
2nd week. "The Accused" (Par.), with Loretta Young and Robert Cummings.

UPTOWN
"The Kissing Bandit" (MGM), Technicolor, with Kathryn Grayson and Frank Sinatra.

MONTREAL

CAPITOL
2nd week. "Rope" (WB), Technicolor, with James Stewart and John Dall.

IMPERIAL
"Berlin Express" (RKO), with Merle Oberon and Robert Ryan. Also "Night Wind" (20th-Fox), with Charles Russell and Virginia Christine.

LOEW'S
3rd week. "When My Baby Smiles at Me" (20th-Fox), Technicolor, with Betty Grable and Dan Dailey.

ORPHEUM
3rd week. "Red River" (UA), with John Wayne and Montgomery Clift.

PALACE
"Life With Father" (WB), Technicolor, with William Powell and Irene Dunne.

PRINCESS
"Johnny Belinda" (WB), with Jane Wyman and Lew Ayres.

SAINT JOHN

CAPITOL
"Her Husband's Affairs" (Col.), with Lucille Ball and Franchot Tone. Also "The Lady From Shanghai" (Col.), with Rita Hayworth and Orson Welles.

MAYFAIR
"Dishonoured Lady" (UA), with Hedy Lamarr and Dennis O'Keefe. Also "Adventure Island" (Par.), with Rory Calhoun and Rhonda Fleming.

PARAMOUNT
"Julia Misbehaves" (MGM), with Greer Garson and Walter Pidgeon.

STRAND
"The Dude Goest West" (AA), with Eddie Albert and Gale Storm.

WINNIPEG

CAPITOL
3rd week. "The Paleface" (Par.), Technicolor, with Bob Hope and Jane Russell.

GAIETY
4th week. "Life With Father" (WB), Technicolor, with William Powell and Irene Dunne.

GARRICK
3rd week. "Red River" (UA), with John Wayne and Montgomery Clift.

METROPOLITAN
"Let's Live a Little" (Int'l), with Hedy Lamarr and Robert Cummings.

ODEON
"Tap Roots" (UI), Technicolor, with Van Heflin and Susan Hayward.

CALGARY

CAPITOL
"Julia Misbehaves" (MGM), with Greer Garson and Walter Pidgeon.

GRAND
"Tap Roots" (UI), Technicolor, with Van Heflin and Susan Hayward.

PALACE
"A Southern Yankee" (MGM), with Red Skelton and Arlene Dahl. Also "Dynamite" (Par.), with William Gargan and Virginia Welles.

STRAND
"Sitting Pretty" (20th-Fox), with Robert Young, Maureen O'Hara and Clifton Webb. Also "Panhandle" (AA), Sepiatone, with Rod Cameron and Cathy Downs.

VANCOUVER

CAPITOL
"The Three Musketeers" (MGM), Technicolor, with Lana Turner and Gene Kelly.

INTERNATIONAL CINEMA
"Belle Starr's Daughter" (20th-Fox), with Rod Cameron and Ruth Roman. Also "Jungle Patrol" (20th-Fox), with Kristine Miller and Arthur Franz.

ORPHEUM
"A Song Is Born" (RKO), Technicolor, with Danny Kaye and Virginia Mayo.

PLAZA
"Sahara" (Col.), with Humphrey Bogart and Bruce Bennett. Also "Black Eagle" (Col.), with William Bishop and Virginia Patton.

STRAND
"Road House" (20th-Fox), with Ida Lupino and Cornel Wilde.

VOGUE
3rd week. "Red River" (UA), with John Wayne and Montgomery Clift.

Take your lead for '49 from the leader!

20th CENTURY-FOX

LEADS

the entire industry on Motion Picture Herald's list of Box-office Champions... on Variety's Score-board of Hits... on Film Daily's 10 BEST Poll... on Boxoffice Barometer ...the top feminine boxoffice star, Betty Grable, and top box-office new male star, Richard Widmark, on Showmen's Trade Review Poll...

the Snake Pit

YELLOW SKY

That Wonderful URGE

Chicken Every Sunday

A Letter to Three Wives

DOWN TO THE SEA IN SHIPS

HEDY'S A DREAM!

BOB'S GOT THAT GLEAM!

WHEN THEY GET TOGETHER...
OH WHAT A TEAM!

"Smartly produced comedy that has the stuff to make audiences laugh." —*Film Daily*

"A merry romp . . . what the ticket-buying public wants." —*Motion Picture Daily*

"Madcap comedy romance." —*Variety*

"Enough action, laughs and eye-filling interiors to please all audiences." —*Motion Picture Herald*

"Certain to win hilarious approval" —*Showmen's Trade Review*

"Lamarr is a knockout!" —*Daily Variety*

HEDY LAMARR

ROBERT CUMMINGS

"Let's Live a Little"

An EAGLE LION (Hollywood) FILM

For Better Boxoffice Product It's... International